



# MAKING PEACE

A Newsletter of the Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution



## Director's Report



Ernest E. Uwazie

In this report, I will outline the Center's activities and programs during this spring. As usual, we've been engaged in implementing and developing various projects and programs, both in Africa and in the USA.

First, let me use this to opportunity to congratulate Dr. Donald R. Gerth, who is retiring after 19 years as CSUS President and 45 impressive years in the

service of the CSU system. Dr. Gerth has certainly inspired the development of many of our Africa programs at CSUS. In the 12 years of the Africa conference, Dr. Gerth had been present to welcome the guests and offer his great insights on the need for internationalization and to understand Africa. His congratulatory letters to me after each conference have been encouraging. Those of us at the CAPCR table during his tribute dinner on May 2 were moved by his strong family background, hard work and outstanding dedication to service, not to talk of "Bev's" charm. We wish you well in your next endeavor, Dr. and Mrs. Gerth!

### 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Africa Conference

The conference on "Ethnicity, Religion and Conflict Diamonds" was held at CSUS from May 1-3, with the keynote address by Dr. Charles (Carlos) Moore Wedderburn of the Universidade do Estado de Bahia, Salvador, Brazil. His address was followed by the second plenary presentation by the controversial Dr. George Ayittey of American University, Washington, D.C. on "The business of war and diamonds in Africa's conflicts: Assessing the effectiveness of the Kimberley Protocols." The conference began with its plenary on May 1, where participants in the Summer 2002 Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Seminar on *Culture, Democratization, Peace and Development* shared

their experiences from the program, the major lessons learned, results/ impact of their application of the seminar knowledge in their teaching and scholarly activities. A special roundtable to assess the impact of the U.S.-Iraq war on Africa-U.S. relations was held on May 3. More than 250 people attended the conference, including students, faculty/Africanist scholars, Sacramento area high school teachers, CSUS staff and community groups (see conference report summary by Dr. Eddah Mutua Kombo). There were eight plenary panels and 30 presentations during the conference.



Cross-section of attendees at the 12th Annual Africa Conference.

The all-plenary format seemed to have posed no problems this time. However, future programs should be organized to allow more time for the presentations as well as Q/A. Also, the concluding session suggested areas for future attention, especially in ensuring accuracy of information by presenters, more thoughtful and sensitive use of language, attracting more/wider audience, more participation by scholars from Africa, and a charge to all present to translate the conference information into concrete plans/actions that impact positively on the people—no matter how *small*. The audience was invited to submit proposals for next year's conference theme to the CAPCR Director before the end of May. Such proposals will be carefully considered!

The conference concluded with the Annual Africa Peace Awards Dinner and Dance on May 3, with over 200 people in attendance. The event was emceed by Ms. Karen Massie of Sacramento's TV News 10, and it honored Dr. William (Bill) Lee, owner/publisher of the *Sacramento Observer* newspapers, who received the 2003 Africa Peace Education Award for building bridges

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among the people of African descent in Sacramento/California; and Mr. John Burris, esq., a civil rights attorney in Oakland, California, who received the 2003 Africa Peace and Justice Award for his distinguished service and leadership in advocating justice for people of African descent. The CAPCR student mentors were also recognized at the event. It was a colorful evening of fun, fashion, food and dancing!



*Peace Awards Recipients (l to r) – Dr. William (Bill) Lee, and John Burris, esq.*

**CAPCR-Oak Park Youth Mentoring/Tutoring Program**

This spring, we recruited and trained 10 CSUS students to work as mentors to more than 50 students at Sacramento and Hiram Johnson High Schools. The students provided tutoring/mentoring services as part of the YOUTHWORKS after-school program of the Sacramento County Department of Health & Human Services outreach in the Oak Park area of Sacramento. Twelve of the high school students toured CSUS on May 2, during which they attended the opening session of the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Africa conference, accompanied their mentors to the classes, and visited significant sites at the CSUS campus. Many of the students (mentors and mentees) also attended the May 3 peace award, where two of the mentees addressed the audience on the effectiveness of the mentoring program. The grant from the California State Office of Criminal Justice Planning and Sacramento County



*Guest speaker with high school students from Sacramento High and Hiram Johnson*

Department of Health & Human Services for this program expires on June 30, 2003. Given the success of the program, CAPCR and the Sacramento County Department of

Health & Human Services are currently exploring other funding alternatives to continue the program. Any tips on funding source are solicited!

**ADR Training and Seminar in West Africa: Ghana**

In January, 2003, we conducted three alternative dispute resolution (ADR) workshops in Accra, Ghana as part of the second phase of the ADR Program in Ghana funded by the U.S. Department of State Office Citizen Exchanges in Washington, D.C. A total of 84 people participated in the workshops conducted by Ernest Uwazie, Daniel Yamshon and Patricia Malberg, with the assistance of the Ghanaians trained in the first phase of the program in the U.S. in the summer 2002. The first workshop (January 7-10) was organized for mostly lawyers from the Ghana Bar Association and others from key public institutions and nonprofit organizations, e.g., the Women and Juvenile Unit of the Police Department, the Ghana Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, the Ghana Social Welfare Department and the Ministry of Justice/Attorney-General's Office. Thirty-two people participated in the basic ADR skills training workshop.

The second and third workshops (January 13-14 and 15-16) were held for members of the judiciary. They included court magistrates, judges of the circuit, appeals and Supreme courts as well as their registrars. The primary goals of the workshops were to provide them with a complete overview of ADR concept and system, educate them on their respective roles in the design and implementation of a Court-Annexed ADR in Ghana, and assist them in the planning of the Court ADR/Mediation Week in April.

The Mediation Week was held from April 7-11 in seven selected magistrate courts in the Accra area of Ghana, with more than 60 lawyer-mediators. Patricia Malberg and Daniel Yamshon were in Ghana then to supervise this landmark project. Of the nearly 250 court cases selected from the docket for the mediation, more than 185 of them were successfully mediated within the week, with five postponed to later dates. Average mediation session lasted 2 hours, and more than 90 percent of the participants (attorneys, defendants and plaintiffs) reported they were satisfied with the process

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and outcome, and would recommend and use it in future. Relevant data on the Mediation week are being compiled and analyzed and will be published in future. The program has been an outstanding success to date!

The mediation week concluded with a day long arbitration training by Daniel Yamshon for 30 members of the Ghana Association of Chartered Mediators and Arbitrators (GHACMA), our partner organization for the project. The Project Director (Uwazie) will travel to Ghana this summer to share results of the mediation week, conduct necessary follow-ups and collect additional data.

**Anticipated Proposals**

Following my grant development trips to East Africa last November and Washington, D.C. this April, several proposals are being planned for submission to the U.S. Institute of Peace, the Department of State, and the Department of Education for projects in Rwanda, Kenya, Ghana, and Nigeria as well as at CSUS-CAPCR in the next fiscal year.

Enjoy your summer!

Ernest E. Uwazie  
Director

**Center For African Peace & Conflict Resolution**  
in collaboration with  
**The Pan African Studies Program**  
presents

**The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Africa/  
Diaspora Conference**

*Theme*

**African and African-American  
Relations in U.S., Americas, and  
Africa: Challenges and Prospects**

**Become a Partner of the CAPCR**

The CAPCR needs your support to achieve and expand its unique collaborative efforts to promote peace education and conflict resolution in/on Africa/U.S. For more information, please contact

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# The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Africa/Diaspora Conference Summary

*Dr. Eddah Mutua-Kombo, Conference Rapporteur*

## **Preamble**

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Africa/ Diaspora Conference was held from May 1-3, 2003 at CSUS, with a stimulating keynote address by Dr. Charles Moore Wedderburn of the Universidade do Estado de Bahia, Salvador, Brazil. The keynote presentation was followed by plenary sessions focusing on the following thematic areas:

- The business of war and diamonds in Africa's conflicts.
- Specific case studies on conflict in Africa.
- Rethinking new directions and strategies for ethnic and religious conflict resolution in Nigeria.
- The impact of the U.S.-Iraq war on U.S.-Africa relations.
- Women and development in Africa.
- Critical perspectives on politics and religion in the African Diaspora.

These themes addressed the root causes of conflicts as well as the intrinsic costs to the African people, and explored resolution strategies. The point that generated much discussion was the economics of war-making, with propositions on how to better utilize Africa's rich resources to rather ensure lasting peace.

## **Opening Ceremony**

The conference began with opening remarks by Dr. Ernest Uwazie, Director, CAPCR, who outlined the relevance of the conference in the context of understanding global social, economic and political processes. He thanked those who have been attending and participating in the conference since 1992, as well as the partners and friends

from various parts of the USA and Africa. His remarks were followed by welcome remarks by Dr. Cecil Canton, CAPCR Board Chair, Dr. David Covin, Director, Pan African Studies, CSUS; Marilyn Hopkins, Dean, College of Health & Human Services, CSUS; Dr. Jack Godwin (represented by Dr. Monica Freeman), Director, Office of Global Education, CSUS; and Dr. Donald R. Gerth, CSUS President. Dean Hopkins welcomed all the participants and commended the impressive work of CAPCR, both internationally and locally. She urged students present to pay attention to the discussions at the conference in order to be enriched with new ideas and quest for knowledge on how to overcome the difficult times facing the world today.

In his remarks, Dr. Gerth expressed the pleasure of his association with CAPCR and said that the conference had become an institution in the CSUS community. He particularly pointed out that CAPCR had fostered the understanding of cultures, history, and languages beyond the U.S. and western traditions and by so doing getting cultural interactions and understanding going locally and internationally. On the issues affecting the world, Dr. Gerth noted that we were all living in times of uncertainty, and indeed actual physical conflicts that must all come to an end. He called for communities to work together to instill stability in the world. He concluded by applauding CAPCR for its contribution to this cause of making the world a better place to live.


Dr. David Covin, CSUS, introduced keynote speaker Dr. Charles Moore Wedderburn. Dr. Covin informed the attentive audience about Dr. Wedderburn's academic accomplishments as well as his international work experiences in the U.S., Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America. Dr. Wedderburn is a Resident Scholar of the Universidade do Estado da Bahia (Salvador, Brazil) and Honorary Research Fellow of the University of the West Indies (Kingston, Jamaica). Outstanding academic achievements by Dr. Wedderburn include extensive scholarship in the area of Diaspora studies, holder of two Ph.D. degrees, fluency in five languages (Spanish, French, Portuguese, Creole, and English), author of several books and articles, and senior editor of the prestigious journal, *African Presence in the Americas*.



## **SOLICITATION AND NOMINATION FOR CAPCR 2004 PEACE AWARDS**

CAPCR is soliciting nominations from individuals, organizations, institutions and other private/public agencies for its 2004 African Peace Awards. Nominees must have excellent accomplishments in the area of peace education and conflict resolution/violence prevention services or research on and/or involving Africa(ns). Such work could be domestic (in U.S.), international in scope, or cross-cultural.

Send all nominations before February 15, 2004 to the Awards Committee c/o Professor Ernest Uwazie, Director, CAPCR, CSUS, 6000 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95819-6085



# How to face the global African emergency? A partisan view toward an overarching blueprint for the African world

Dr. Carlos Moore Wedderburn

*Editor's note: The following is an abstract of the keynote address delivered by Dr. Charles Wedderburn and panel presentations at the 12th Annual Africa Conference, May 2, 2003. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of CAPCR-CSUS or the editor.*

## Summary of Keynote Speech

Dr. Wedderburn's speech examined issues and prospects of peace in Africa. He relied on Socratic method, asking numerous questions that exercised the recollections of his audience of events in history that tied very well in understanding his perspective on ethnicity, religion and diamonds conflict in Africa. He began by providing background information on the impact of conflict from a global perspective. He noted that the various generations of the 21<sup>st</sup> century will unquestionably be the witnesses to and actors of a re-architecturing of the entire edifice of world affairs, as it was known throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Further, he added that political, social and economic indicators already point in the direction of an era characterized by great instability and unpredictability with a great potential for generalized chaos. In and of itself chaos is not necessarily negative being the essential propellant of life in the universe and of course on our planet. He noted that the sort of chaos that could easily lead to the violent extinction of humankind, or a particular branch of it, is unacceptably horrifying. The technology of war continues to be on the rise with world peace becoming more and more a fragile hope. Seen in such stark terms, is it realistic - or even possible - to envision a reorganization of the global African world along self-propelled and essentially differential lines? This question among others sought to establish the cause and solutions to the fragility of Africa: What is it that makes the African fabric so easy to breakdown? Are diamonds the cause? How does Africa handle its own conflicts? What is the future of global Africa?

In explaining the cause of Africa's fragility, Dr. Wedderburn used a number of cases studies to illustrate his view that a combination of factors including power struggles, scramble for limited resources, ethnic animosities, struggles for nationhood, tribalism (which he described as frustrated nationhood), and imposition of Western democracy on traditional systems of governance were some of the major causes of Africa's social, political and economic breakdown. The country case studies referenced include: Somalia,

Rwanda, Burundi, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, and Liberia. He reminded his audience to reflect on the causes of conflict in these countries and relate them to the problems identified. He castigated African leaders for not willing to give up power thus posing yet another formidable unresolved issue of governance.

Colonialism played its role in pulling apart people who had long lived in borderless communities. Borders were made which tore apart communities leaving many angry, and unable to grasp a sense of belongingness. As a result, the anger has continued to grow translating into ethnocentrism and thus causing much of the civil unrest in Africa.

Are diamonds also a cause of the chaos in the continent? Dr. Wedderburn noted that despite the fact that Africa has 37 of the 46 strategic materials needed by the North, it is still the poorest region in the world. Diamonds have been used to fund wars in countries such as Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola and Sierra Leone. The issue of concern in understanding this trend is that mercenaries who have no concern for their people lead wars that are not based on any moral and/or ethical obligations besides greed for power. As a result, the political and economic indicators in Africa as she situates herself in global affairs point to the direction of instability, unpredictability and, in essence, providing an environment that offers a great potential for chaos. The foreseen chaos were not restricted to Africa but to the world over.

Specifically addressing the question of tribalism and ethnicity, it was asserted that, more often than not, we trivialize these at our own peril. In true fact "they are the specific expressions of suppressed nationalism and frustrated nationhood in the global African world." Dr. Wedderburn recommended that scholars, politicians and citizens in general re-conceptualize ways to address the challenges of nationhood such as ethnicity, tribalism, and racism, by acknowledging the centrality of traditional systems of knowledge, religion, governance, language and culture in the peoples daily lives and experiences. An interesting perspective posed was that

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ethnicity and tribalism were a reality and that denouncing them was denouncing nationhood and nationalism. Similarly, religion was viewed as a factor of unity as much as a factor of division. The challenge at hand was how to deal with this paradox. He suggested that critical analysis was needed to understand the political, social and economic nexus of conflict problems in Africa.

What about restructuring political systems to institute new forms of governance? Dr. Wedderburn noted that Africa's forms of governance are based on outside political structures, which are numerical and not clearly understood by a majority of people who are accustomed to traditional forms of leadership. He argued that much of the political instability is out of the allegiance to one's ethnic group, such that when this "nationhood" is frustrated conflict is bound to happen. He further stated that systems of government have failed, thus impeding economic, political and technological progress of the continent. Numerous solutions were offered to overcome the problems Africa faces. He urged African people and those in the Diaspora to start thinking about having a world without borders. Overall, Africa has lost confidence in the wisdom that was handed down to her by European colonialism. The people must begin to look at traditional structures, artists, and craftsmen. As he states, "Wisdom is not in the hands of the Western elite, it is in the power of traditions of the people that define the social, political and economic structures that fit their realities."

The future for Africa was seen in light of striving towards an overarching blueprint for such a diverse and widespread global African world. From this partisan viewpoint, a suggestion was made to start by "going back to the blackboard" to prioritize the conceptualization of at least the following interconnected core issues:

- 1) The increasingly negative impact of a "globalized racism" upon all African and African-related peoples and societies throughout the world;
- 2) The necessity of rescuing tribalism and ethnicity as essentially positive forces inasmuch as they are the building-blocks of true nations;
- 3) The imperative architecturing of new systems of governance grounded on traditional structures; and
- 4) The establishment of a Supra-national African Moral authority capable of voicing collective positions,

engaging in meaningful third-party negotiations in the management and resolution of crises and emergencies, and responsible for the collection and synthesis of global African experiences for the purpose of coordinating strategic positions.

It was asserted that the salvation of Africa was in turning inwards, in a new exercise of initiative that the Jamaican scholar, Rex Nettleford, has termed "Inward Stretch, Outward Reach."

Overall, the paper presented perspectives that seemed relevant to the goals of the conference. By and large, the paper provided good background information that stimulated useful dialogue throughout the conference.

## Panel Discussions

The plenary on the business of war and diamonds in Africa was typified by robust discussions following a presentation by Dr. George Ayittey of American University, Washington, D.C. His paper "The business of war and diamonds in Africa's conflict: assessing the effectiveness of Kimberley protocols" outlined the many conflicts in Africa supported by diamonds—on both sides of the war, especially in Sierra Leone and Angola. He suggests that the U.N.-brokered Kimberley Protocols can only work if monitored and violators are punished. Further, he argued that African governments should take responsibility over their actions and not to blame colonialism for their ruthless actions of corruption and greed. A lesson well articulated was that Africa may not succeed in controlling the actions of the U.S. in controlling who is elected as the head of state in some African countries, but African people, through democratic elections and effective political reforms can control who is elected to present the genuine needs of the majority of the people at both local and national government levels.

The plenary on conflict case studies in Africa underscored the economic underpinnings of the conflict diamonds in Africa. It was recommended that African governments should

- 1) ensure meaningfully economic development of communities;
- 2) legislate that an agreeable percentage of government revenues should be retained by local communities for their development;



- 3) ensure transparency and accountability of public funds; and
- 4) resort where appropriate to indigenous African methods in dealing with conflict situations, taking into account of course a balanced account of relevant areas of jurisprudence.

Further research into different methods of conflict should also take into account minority concerns as well as highlight the limitations of the indigenous justice system so as not to romanticize it. Such limitations need to be noted to determine what practices should be discarded and/or incorporated into modern justice systems.

The roundtable discussion on ethnic and religious conflict resolution in Nigeria sought to review new directions and strategies for national reconciliation and mutual co-existence. The plenary underscored the structural arrangement of the Nigerian political system--where power is centralized -- as the major cause of ethnic and religious conflict in the country. The discussions highlighted the need to:

- 1) intensify peace education to eradicate ethnocentric view that some of the ethnic groups were “born to rule”
- 2) ensure that conflict resolution efforts collaborate with the oil companies, women’s groups and other civil society groups and government to uphold the rule of the law and promote attempts at national reconciliation.

The roundtable discussion on the impact of the war on U.S-Africa relations was devoted to the recent U.S.-led invasion of Iraq and the impact of this invasion for U.S.-Africa relations. It began with an attempt on the part of the chair to frame the discussion by defining the nature of the conflict and the style of the conflict, followed by presentations by the panelists, each concluded with a series of questions for further inquiry: the proposed U.S. super embassy (reduction in the number of U.S. embassies) in Africa and its implications on African immigration to the U.S., especially in area of new U.S.-Africa trade and investment initiatives; the domino effect in Africa, where one strong African country attacks the other under the suspicion or cover of terrorism; possible negative or cool response by U.S. against African countries who did not support the war, especially at the U.N. Security Council.

The plenary on women and development underscored the important role that women play in every sphere of development in Africa. It contended that the inclusion of women in processes of peace building was of paramount

importance, especially given that women bear the brunt of development in Africa. The major thematic areas addressed by the presenters included the role of women in communication, gender analysis in peace building efforts, women’s participation in democratic reforms and thoughts on the construction of an African feminist theory that would promote gender equity and social justice.

The panel on critical perspectives on politics and religion in the Diaspora addressed the issue of who should be responsible for social justice and morality in Jamaica and the 54 African nations. A consensus was reached that Africans in Diaspora should rely on a comprehensive democratic political system in which appointment to political positions is based on elections. Further, the panel emphasized the need for a careful study of the African family in the U.S., and the case for reparations to Africans—in the U.S. and African continent.

Participants from the Summer 2002 Fulbright-Hays group project shared their rewarding experiences from the seminar on “Democratization, Human Rights, Peace and Development” in Uganda. They explained how they were applying the knowledge in their respective curricular/teaching, and the academic/educational impact on their students, peers, and professional development.

The concluding session allowed the panelists to highlight the lessons learned from the conference that point to future directions to promote peace and reconciliation in Africa. The relevance of the conference was said to be significant in view of events taking place in the world such as racism, violence, religious fundamentalism, poverty, HIV/AIDS, challenges of the information age etc. Participants were able to engage in useful dialogue on some of the solutions to improve the situation (see details in the conference report at [www.csus.edu/org/CAPCR](http://www.csus.edu/org/CAPCR)) such as efforts to develop communication models and African indigenous justice systems that fit the realities of the African environment.

African leaders were urged to focus their attention on the needs and suffering of the people and by so doing create a public image that upholds democratic accountability. Similarly, scholars and all African people were asked to develop the ability to nurture and sustain the unique Africa’s worldview and push for the moral authority suggested by the keynote speaker. Scholars were urged to create new knowledge that meets the identified

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## Panel Discussions *cont'd. from page 7*

needs of a majority of people in Africa. Such efforts would see an end to continuing exploitation by multinational companies, thus opening ways for transformative movements as illustrated by women's struggles against economic injustice in Nigeria. In addition, knowledge would allow African people to be prepared and willing to participate in processes that define their destiny and help them to focus on sustainable development.

Broadly, it was suggested that the conference organizers needed to consider bringing in more people outside the academia to reflect the interconnectedness of the African world. It was suggested that considerations be made to create ways to promote interactions between all people of African descent.

In his concluding remarks, CAPCR Director Uwazie thanked all for their participation and useful contributions. He challenged all to devise, practical, meaningful ways to apply the knowledge gained from the conference in their respective organizations, institutions, communities and families. For example, he outlined a recent mediation week in Ghana, where nearly 200 court cases were settled within five days under one of CAPCR's projects on alternative dispute resolution. Finally, he invited all to propose themes for the 2004 Africa conference and to use the email addresses listed in the program to continue the network in future.

## Calendar of Events

JUNE 14-18, 2004

Summer Institute on Conflict Resolution

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